(d) whether Government has ascertained with the concerned airlines if those norms were followed during the period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) In view of the mass leave taken by the pilots of Jet Airways recently, Directorate General of Civil Aviation directed the airline to set up control rooms at the airports, make arrangements to transfer passengers to other airlines, refund of air tickets to be made immediately and provide information of cancellation to all concerned passengers. In addition, in pursuance of sub-rule (4) of Rule 135 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) issued directions to all the scheduled domestic airlines to charge tariff prevalent just before the pilots of Jet Airways went on mass leave, which were complied with by all scheduled domestic airlines.

Expenditure on core gas transmission segment by GAIL

*277. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) plans Rs. 49,000 crores capex for 2010-14 with a substantial part of it, *i.e.* around 70 per cent, to be incurred in core gas transmission segment;

(b) whether plan is to double the length of pipelines and transmission capacity apart from expanding company's petrochemical business;

(c) whether company is planning to double current transmission pipeline length of around 7000 km. to 14000 km. by fiscal year 2013; and

(d) if so, what are the concrete measures and steps being considered in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) GAIL (India) Ltd. has a planned Capex (Capital Expenditure) of around Rs. 49,000 crore for the period 2010-14. Out of the mentioned amount, around 70% is in the core gas transmission segment. However, this expenditure is subject to due diligence and Board approval.

(b) to (d) The mentioned Capital Expenditure is based on GAIL (India) Ltd. doubling its pipeline length from the present level of 7,000 km to 14,000 km by 2014, apart from expanding Company's petrochemicals business. The commissioning of these pipeline would also entail more than doubling the present level of transmission capacity. The approved projects are in various stages of execution, for which GAIL (India) Ltd. is also augmenting its manpower. As regards the remaining projects, due diligence is being undertaken and approvals are being taken.

New flights from Rajkot Airport

*278. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rajkot airport has vast traffic potential for Mumbai and Delhi;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to start extra flights from Rajkot airport; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Air India and Jet Airways are presently operating Scheduled air services on Mumbai-Rajkot-Mumbai routes. However, there is no direct flight from Delhi to Rajkot.

(b) and (c) Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by Government.

Separate Stock Exchange for SMEs

*279. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up separate stock exchange for the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs);

(b) if so, whether Government has commissioned any study to measure the feasibility of such scheme with the stakeholders;

(c) if so, the rationale for such an exchange considering that there are separate indices for the midcap and small cap segments in the existing National Stock Exchange (NSE) and Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE);

(d) by when such exchange is likely to begin trading; and

(e) whether Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has framed the guidelines for listing and trading in the upcoming stock exchange of SMEs?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) recognises and regulates Stock Exchanges. SEBI has decided to facilitate the setting up of separate stock exchanges or a platform in the existing stock exchanges dedicated to the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) with the objective of making available equity capital at lower cost for small and medium scale industries.

(b) A discussion paper on developing market for Small and Medium Enterprises in India was put up on the SEBI web-site on May 26, 2008 for inviting public comments. Based on the public comments received and discussions with various market participants, the framework for